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PERISCOPE

A Deal With Moscow on a U.S. Spy

When the Soviets revealed last week that they had spared the life of 40-year-old Anatoly Filatov, who was sentenced to death in 1978 for being a U.S. spy, Newsweek learned that the commutation was the secret part of an elaborate bargain already announced. In a package deal negotiated by Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national-security adviser, and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviets agreed not to execute Filatov at the time they arranged the public, 1979 release and deportation of five well-known Soviet dissidents, including poet Aleksandr Ginzburg. In exchange, the Soviets got back two countrymen who had been convicted as spies by a U.S. court in New Jersey.

■ Washington is trying to keep track of Aleksandr Kruglov, the Russian private who gave himself up to Soviet officials after briefly taking refuge in the American Embassy in Kabul (NEWSWEEK, Sept. 29). Noting that the Soviets promised the soldier that if he returned home he would suffer no penalty and could quit the army to study, the Carter Administration has told the Kremlin it will be watching the Kruglov affair. U.S. officials do not know exactly where Kruglov has gone, but they gave him an unlisted phone number of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow-just in case he cares to call for future American help.